



STATE BUDGET OFFICE
February 17, 2012

**Coverage of Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorders
through Medicaid and MICHild programs**

Proposal:

The fiscal year 2013 Executive Recommendation includes \$34.1 million gross, \$10.1 million general fund for the coverage of treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs).

Background Information:

ASDs are a set of neurological developmental disabilities that are manifested through significant social, communication, and behavioral delays. Some evidence shows that if treatment begins at an early age, it can result in significant improvements in many areas.

Based on the severity of a child's diagnosis, treatments range from the more expensive Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) to less extensive play therapies. Providing coverage through Medicaid and MICHild will allow parents to access services of varying intensity and expenses based on a child's need. As part of a nationwide recognition that these treatments are effective, many states now require coverage of ASD treatments.

The cost estimates in the fiscal year 2013 Executive Budget reflect an estimate of 2,000 children who are under six years of age, eligible for Medicaid and MICHild, and who would qualify for some type of ASD treatment. While treatments may continue through age 18, the majority of expenses are incurred during a child's early development years.